



Pjila'si Mi'kma'kik Gallery Walk

Overview

In this introductory and immersive experience, learners encounter Mi'kma'kik through a series of images, quotes and other graphics. The experience of “walking the gallery” allows them to become self-aware about what they know and might not know about the Mi'kmaw worldview, as well as the animals, plants, landscapes and seascapes of Mi'kma'kik. They will record their reactions to the gallery using the phrases: **Nemitekey** (I see), **Ankita'si** (I think), **We'tuo'tikey** (I feel), and **Pemite'tm koqwey?** (I wonder).

Learners will...

- Activate their curiosity about Mi'kma'kik.
- Understand that the Mi'kmaq are the indigenous people of Nova Scotia and much of Atlantic Canada.
- Associate the Mi'kmaw people with the geographic extent of Mi'kma'kik.
- Become familiar with the geographic extent of Mi'kma'kik.
- Be introduced to some aspects of Mi'kmaw worldviews as they relate to place and land.
- Encounter the following cultural concepts i) Mi'kma'kik; ii) netukulimk; iii) msit no'kmaq; iv) seven Mi'kmaw districts.
- Become self-aware about what they know and don't know (activate prior learning) about Mi'kma'kik.

Focus

The provided graphics are to be printed and hung around the classroom (or other appropriate space) where learners can walk by them as in a museum gallery experience. Using the worksheet provided, learners will record their reactions. Learners respond to each prompt thinking about what the image or gallery element made them think, feel, wonder or see. Learners are encouraged to link the gallery content to their own experiences and existing knowledge as well as to ask new questions.



This is an introductory unit — it should be appropriate for all learners regardless of prior knowledge.

- Worksheets are in Mi'kmaw, which gives learners the opportunity to learn the Mi'kmaw language.
- Mi'kmaw is the first language of Nova Scotia.



All graphic files fit on 11 × 17 inch paper.

There is an optional exit ticket activity in Mi'kmaw and English to help learners consolidate their knowledge about Mi'kma'kik.



English exit tickets are available in the supplementary materials.



Chief Deborah Robinson of Wasoqopa'q and then-Chief Andrea Paul of Pictou Landing partake in the celebrations at the Grand Pré mawio'mi, 2017. (Courtesy of Communications Nova Scotia)



Elder Murdena Marshall from Eskasoni First Nation always felt a strong connection to her ancestors at the Debert archaeological sites.



Molly Muise poses for a photograph at Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia in the mid-1800s. (Courtesy of Parks Canada, Fort Anne National Historic Site)



Partridge Island is one of the most storied places in Mi'kma'kik.



Peter Wilnot (pictured here in 1930) was a saqmaq at Pictou Landing. He also founded the community of Millbrook in 1886. (Courtesy of NMAI)



Jacoby Jadis-Battiste proudly wears his hair in a braid. There are many teachings about long hair and its care. (Courtesy of Kate Jadis)



Violet Isadore dances at the Annual Strawberry mawio'mi hosted by Annapolis Valley First Nation, 2023. (Courtesy of Sharon Farrell)



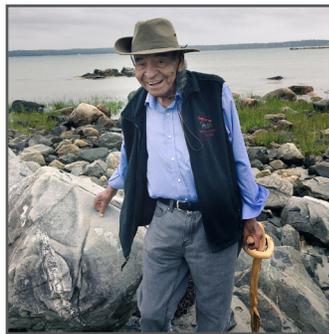
Trevor Gould from Paqtnek Mi'kmaw Nation snares salmon on the Barneys River, 2021.



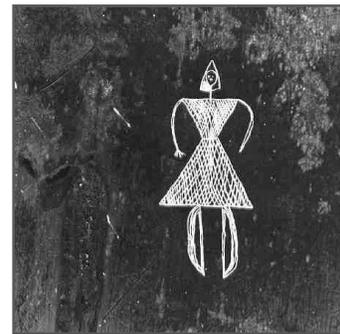
Louise Mali A'n (Denny) Morris (pictured here in Eskasoni in 1930) is known for her fine splint shopping baskets. (Courtesy of NMAI)



Mi'kmaw guides, taken in the 1890s, Lake Jolly, NS. (back, L to R) Louis Peters, John Peters, John McEwan, John Louis; (front, L to R) John Labrador, Malti or Simeon Pictou, Eli Pictou. (Courtesy of Nova Scotia Archives)



Elder Douglas Knockwood visited the ancestral sites near Port Joli, NS, in 2017. While he grew up at Newville Lake, he lived in many places including not far from Port Joli for a short time. His memory was remarkable!



At Kejimikujik National Park, we find petroglyphs that appear to represent Mi'kmaw life before and after contact with Europeans. (Courtesy of the Nova Scotia Museum)